📓 Lecture Notes: *Deviance, Crime & Social Control*

(Source:)

🔷 1. Key Definitions (MEMORIZE)

- **Deviance** = behavior that violates social norms
- **Crime** = deviance that violates laws
- **Social control** = ways society prevents and punishes deviance

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🔷 2. Types of Social Control

Informal Social Control

- From people around you
- Examples:
  - Disapproval
  - Ridicule
  - Shame

Formal Social Control

- From official institutions
- Examples:
  - Police
  - Courts
  - Laws

🔷 3. Deviance is NORMAL (Durkheim ☆)

- **Émile Durkheim:** deviance exists in ALL societies
- It is **inevitable and normal**

Why?

1. Not everyone follows rules
2. Society defines what is deviant

👉 No deviance = impossible society

🔷 4. Functions of Deviance (VERY IMPORTANT)

Deviance helps society by:

1. **Clarifying norms**
    - Shows what is right/wrong
2. **Strengthening social bonds**
    - People unite against deviance
3. **Promoting social change**
    - “Deviants” can lead progress (e.g., civil rights leaders)

🔷 5. Relativity of Deviance (EXAM FAVORITE ☆)

Deviance depends on context—not the act itself

Relative in:

1. **Place**
    - OK in one culture, deviant in another
2. **Time**
    - Changes over history
3. **Situation**
    - Same act, different meaning
    - Example:
        - Killing in war = hero
        - Killing in society = crime

👉 Key idea:
🔲 **Deviance is socially constructed**

🔷 6. Labeling Theory (IMPORTANT)

- People become deviant because they are **labeled deviant**

👉 Key idea:

- Behavior is deviant **because society labels it so**

🔷 7. Biological & Psychological Theories

- Say deviants are:
    - Biologically different
    - Psychologically abnormal

⚠ Limitation:

- Do NOT explain social differences in crime

🔷 8. Sociological Theories (VERY IMPORTANT)

A. Functionalist Perspective

Durkheim (review)

- Deviance has functions

Social Ecology Theory

- Crime caused by:
    - Poverty
    - Bad neighborhoods
    - Weak social control

👉 Key term: **social disorganization**

Strain Theory (Merton ☆)

- Society values **success (money)**
- Not everyone has equal access

👉 Leads to **strain (frustration)**

5 Adaptations (MEMORIZE TABLE)

Type	Goal	Means
Conformity	✓	✓

Type	Goal	Means
Innovation	✓	✗
Ritualism	✗	✓
Retreatism	✗	✗
Rebellion	replace both	

👉 Example:

- Innovation = crime to get money

Deviant Subcultures

- Groups develop values that support deviance

Social Control Theory (Hirschi)

- People commit deviance when **social bonds are weak**

Key bonds:

- Attachment
- Commitment
- Involvement
- Belief

B. Conflict Theory

- Laws favor the **powerful**
- Poor & minorities more likely to be punished

C. Feminist Theory

- Focus on:
    - Gender inequality
    - Violence against women

D. Symbolic Interactionism

Differential Association Theory

- Crime is **learned from others**

Techniques of Neutralization

- People justify deviance:
    - “Not my fault”
    - “No one got hurt”

Labeling Theory (again)

- Labels → identity → more deviance

🔷 9. Big Picture

👉 Deviance is caused by:

- Social environment
- Inequality
- Learning from others
- Weak social bonds